

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, IN, US
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF FINANCE ANSWERS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
U.S. PEACE CORPS

REF: NEW DELHI 11310

1. JYOTIRMOY BOSU, OPM MEMBER OF THE LOK SABHA, ASKED
MINISTER OF FINANCE PATEL THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE U.S. PEACE CORPS:

- (A) WHEN THE AMERICAN PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WERE
ALLOWED TO START FUNCTIONING IN INDIA;
 - (B) WHEN THEY CEASED THEIR OPERATION;
 - (C) WHAT WAS THE TOTAL STRENGTH OF THE PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS IN INDIA;
 - (D) WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF OPERATION OF THESE VOLUNTEERS;
 - (E) WHETHER MANY OF THESE VOLUNTEERS WERE DIRECTLY OR
INDIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE U.S. C.I.A., AND IF SO,
THE DETAILS THEREOF;
 - (F) WHETHER THE US GOVERNMENT IS NOW TRYING TO FIND
OUT WHETHER THESE VOLUNTEERS CAN AGAIN START
FUNCTIONING IN THIS COUNTRY; AND
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(G) IF SO, THE FACTS THEREOF AND GOVERNMENTS REACTION
THERETO?

2. ON JULY 28 PATEL ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS IN THE
LOK SABHA AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) DECEMBER 1961.
- (B) 30 SEPTEMBER 1976.

(C) THE STRENGTH OF THE AMERICAN PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN INDIA VARIED FROM TIME TO TIME. THE PROGRAMME BEGAN WITH 26 VOLUNTEERS; THEIR NUMBER INCREASED TO 1256 IN MARCH 1967 BUT STOOD AT 7 IN SEPTEMBER 1976 JUST BEFORE THEY CEASED FUNCTIONING IN INDIA.

(D) THE VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED TRAINED MANPOWER FOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES MUTUALLY AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MANILY IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION, SMALL INDUSTRIES AND EDUCATION. AN OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME WAS TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

(E) THERE IS NO REPORT TO CONNECT THE AMERICAN PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OR THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH THE US C.I.A.

(F) AND (G) GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WAS SOUNDED INFORMALLY ON THE POSSIBILITY OF REINTRODUCING THE AMERICAN PEACE CORPS INTO INDIA. GOVERNMENT IS OF THE VIEW THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO REVIVE THE PROGRAMME.
GOHEEN

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